

Message Text

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SUBJ: THUMB-NAIL SKETCHES OF PC LEADERSHIP CANADATES

1. FOLLOWING THUMB-NAIL SKETCHES ON PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE (PC) LEADERSHIP CANDIDATES MAY BE USEFUL TO DEPT TO DEPT ON EVE OF THIS WEEKEND'S PC LEADERSHIP CONVENTION. THEY PREPARED BY RESPECTED POLITICAL COLUMNIST DOUGLAS FISHER AND APPEARED IN FEB 19 MONTREAL GAZETTE. CHARACTER STUDIES JIBE WITH GENERAL EMBASSY IMPRESSIONS.

2. "JOE CLARK. BRUSQUE, ARROGANT, QUICK, INDUSTRIOUS, BRIGHT, A YOUNG 100 PERCENT POLITICAN, HAS A GOOD GRASP OF POLITICAL HISTORY AND ISSUES. EXCEPTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN FOUR YEARS AS MP, CONCEITED, OFTEN SEEMS POMPUS, GLIB ON HIS FEET, A QUICK "STUDY". RATES WITH JACK HORNER AS THE HIGHEST IQ'S IN THIS LOT. AT DEAD CENTRE OF POLITICAL SPECTRUM.

3. JOHN FRASER. ULTRA-SERIOUS AND RESPONSIBLE, ALMOST COLORLESS IN HIS GRAVITY, THE MOST SOLID, ASSIDUOUS MP IN THE GROUP BUT WITHOUT DASH AS A SPEAKER OR ANALYST. IDENTIFIES WITH THE UNDERDOG; PRAGMATIC, NOT THEORETICAL. HAS LITTLE MEANNESS IN HIM; A BIT OF A LONER AND QUITE UNMACHIAVELLAN.

4. JIM GILLIES. CAME TOO LATE TO POLITICS FROM BUSINESS SCHOOL; IS MORE LUCID (SURPRISINGLY) ON NON-ECONOMIC
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ISSUES; TOO NATURALLY PLEASANT TO GO FOR THE JUGULAR;
NOT A NATURAL PARLIAMENTARIAN (REMINDS ME OF PEARSON

IN THE HOUSE). HAS EXCELLENT BUSINESS CONNECTIONS AND EASILY ATTUNES TO BUREAUCRATS IN BIG GOVERNMENT AND BIG BUSINESS; LACKS VISIOUSNESS, IS EMBARRASSED WHEN PARTISANSHIP REQUIRES SOME HYPOCRISY. HE MIGHT HANDLE TRUDEAU ON CLOSELY DEBATED ISSUES BUT BE LEFT DANGLING WHEN GREAT GALL IS ESSENTIAL, AS IT OFTEN IS.

5. HEWARD GRAFFTEY. IN AN ODD, VEERING WAY THE MOST LIKEABLE PERSON IN THE GROUP; NAIVE, SOFT-HEARTED, HUMANE AND WOOLY; PRODIGIOUS ENERGY; RATHER LONELY. LOVES TO ADDRESS ANY AUDIENCE BUT, DESPITE EXCELLENT MOMENTS, CANNOT GRIP AND CARRY ONE FROM BEGINNING TO END. IS DISCONCERTING TO TV VIEWERS; EASILY RATTLED BY HOSTILITY.

6. PAUL HELLYER. A POLITICAL FUNDAMENTALIST AND SELF-CONCEIVED MESSIAH. WOULD CREATE THE HELLYER PARTY; PERSISTENT, RESILIENT, FANTASTIC CONFIDENCE IN HIS INSIGHTS; A POOR PARLIAMENTARIAN, CONSIDERING HIS 20 YEARS IN THE HOUSE; MUCH BETTER ON TV OR PLAT-FORM IF NOT PRESSED HARD; LOYAL ENOUGH AND CAPABLE AT MAKING FRIENDS AND ACQUIRING DISCIPLES. STUBBORN, RATHER SIMPLE-MINDED; VERY FIT AND INDUSTRIOUS; A GENUINE RIGHT WINGER IN THE SENSE THAT HE'S AUTHORITARIAN BUT ALSO RATHER A POPULIST WITH FEW SUBTLETIES. IN MY OPINION "DUCK SOUP" FOR TRUDEAU; DOES HAVE ENOUGH SAVVY TO KNOW THE TORIES MUST HAVE SOME QUEBEC SEATS.

7. JACK HORNER. A MOST UNEVEN PERFORMER; CAN BE BRILLIANT BUT OFTEN TUNES OUT. DOESN'T NEED TO EVEN THINK THAT HE'S CONSERVATIVE AND A RIGHT WINGER, HE IS. CAN BE ROUGH AND MEAN, VERY SELF-ASSURED, INSTINCTIVELY COMBATIVE; LIKES A FIGHT. IMMENSE COURAGE AND GREAT RIGIDITY, DISTRUSTS INTELLECTUALS AND BUREAUCRATS. CAN BE TOP-NOTCH IN THE HOUSE; SUBTLY ENOUGH AS A POLITICAL SCHEMER BUT INFLEXIBLE WHEN OPENLY COMMITTED. SHADES HELLYER AS THE MOST RADICAL ASPIRANT.

8. PAT NOWLAN. ALL-CANADIAN BOY, GENEROUS, GOOD-
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HUMORED, FINE SENSE OF FUN, UNDEVIOUS, TOO EASY GOING. VERY MUCH A RANDOM PERFORMER IN HOUSE; CANNY ON PARTISAN ISSUES; LARGELY UNLEARNED ON GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.

8. FLORA MACDONALD. MY SENTIMENTAL FAVORITE; A FINE WOMAN, SHE IS WHAT YOU HEAR AND SEE. COMPARES WITH HELLYER AND CLARK FOR FITNESS, STAMINA AND DEDICATION BUT MUCH LESS SELF-REGARDING THAN EITHER MAN. HAS IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS MORE THAN ANY

OF OTHERS IN LAST FOUR YEARS; PERHAPS TOO THOUGHTFUL
AND AWARE OF OTHERS. THE CLOSEST TO STANFIELD IN
VIEWS ON POLITICAL ISSUES AND BEHAVIOR; MAY WELL BE
TOO GENEROUS AND DECENT FOR THE JOB.

9. BRIAN MULRONEY. AN AMALAGAM OF THE YOUNG JOHN
DIEFENBAKER AND THE CURRENT BRUCE MACKAY; OOOZES EGO,
EMOTION, SENTIMENT; BLARNEY AND CHARM; FRESH IMAGE
SHOULD WEAR RATHER WELL. COULD BE BEST DEBATER IN
HOUSE AND WOULD BE BEST TV PERFORMER OF THE LOT; FAR
FROM A GENIUS IN KNOWING AND INTERPRETING
POLITICAL HISTORY AND ISSUES. PARADOXICALLY, THE
BIGGEST RISK OF DISASTER FOR THE PARTY YET THE
BEST BET FOR SMASHING THE LIBERALS IN '78.

10. SINCLAIR STEVENS. ALMOST A COMPOSITE FOR WORRIED,
AGGRESSIVE, "LET'S DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT" SMALL
BUSINESSMAN; MUSCULAR, UNCOMPLICATED, CAN BE VERY
BITING, NARROW, RATHER BRITTLE. THE BEST ALL-AROUND
BET IF THE DELEGATES WANT BOTH A REAL AND A SYMBOLIC
RIGHT WINGER RATHER THAN POWER IN '78.

11. CLAUDE WAGNER. CUNNING, POISED, GRACIOUS, PRO-
FESSIONAL AND ALMOST ALL SURFACE. KEEPS A TIGHT REIGN
ON A BAD TEMPER; AMAZING THAT HE'S PICKED UP SO MUCH
SUPPORT; FAIRLY ADROIT IN HOUSE AND ON TV BUT I THINK
HE HAS A SMALL CAPACITY FOR IMPROVEMENT; OLD-FASHIONED
IN HIS SKILLS BUT AS TOTAL A POLITICIAN AS ANY IN THE
RACE. HAS A MEAN STREAK BUT NO UNUSUAL QUALITIES OF
INVECTIVE OR INSPIRATION.

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